

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended.

As will become apparent, entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 since the amendment; a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; b) does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendment amplifies issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; c) does not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendment as thus respectfully requested.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 29 and 30 are allowed. Based on the Examiner's statement of Reasons for Allowance, Applicants have amended the independent claims to recite that the challenge includes information representing the type of challenge, version information, and alphanumeric characters, the type of challenge representing a network authentication status. Furthermore, claims 29 and 30 have been amended for clarity but without changing the scope of the claims.

The Office Action rejects claims 15-18, 27, 28 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the Skid protocol in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,014,085 to Patel (hereinafter "Patel"); claim 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,161,185 to Guthrie et al. (hereinafter "Guthrie") in view of Patel; claims 19-23 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the Skid protocol and further in view of Patel; claims 24, 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the Skid protocol in view of Patel and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,081,677 to Green et al. (hereinafter "Green"); claim 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the Skid protocol in view

of Patel and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,774,650 to Chapman et al. (hereinafter "Chapman"); claim 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the skid protocol in view of Patel and further in view of the Window NT User Administration.

None of the references teach or suggest that the challenge includes information representing the type of challenge, version information and alphanumeric characters, wherein the type of challenge represents a network authentication status. At least based on the above, Applicants request and early and favorable Notice of Allowance.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to deposit account number 50-1165 (Docket No. T3264-906343) and fees not included herein, under 37 CFR §§ 1.16 and 1.17, that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. A duplicate copy of this page is included for such purpose. If any additional extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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